Finding Pasture: Vol 1

Finding meaning after NYSC

A resource compiled from an online teaching by Jesudamilare Adesegun-David

Foreword

JUST GOT DONE WITH NYSC? THIS IS FOR YOU.

So, I've felt this burden to share salient truths with the Lord's children who are just done with NYSC. This period for many is so, so sensitive. Decisions made during this period are also weighty. However, while considering the possibility of having a live event, I realized it wouldn't be something I'll be chanced to do in any near enough time period as I'm a bit more occupied than aforetimes. This led to the decision to host the meeting on a virtual platform. The Lord has instructions and wisdom for rising above the status quo to dispense during this short journey together.

FINDING MEANING AFTER NYSC

Blessed be the name of the Lord. We bless you Father for this privilege. Thank You. Thank You. Thank You. Our hearts are open to You and we trust You for supplies that will go beyond the temporary period after NYSC but which will last us a lifetime as well.

I am persuaded that those who joined this group did so with a purpose. I believe it is the same kind of purpose Daniel had just as we find in ***Daniel 1:8...Daniel purposed in his heart...*** Now, this is the bedrock for everyone in this group; the purposeful approach to all that will be shared here tonight. I am holding this session as I was led to by the Father and I know confirmations will back my words to you. The Lord will confirm these words as you yield to them. So, for 2 minutes, I want you to pray deliberately. If you can pray in tongues, do so. If not, pray in your understanding. Dig deep in prayer to lay hold on a purposeful engagement with this session.

So, we will delve into the matters the Lord raised with me as being essential for finding meaning after NYSC.

Service year proves to be a lot of things for many people. For some it's an adventure, for others, it's a necessary evil. For some, they can't wait to be done with it. Others find that as they moved closer to the end of the service year, an unusual anxiety broke out over them. Some find that they aren't prepared for life afterwards since the monthly allowance served as a buffer while the year went by. Others found themselves getting emotionally attached to first this person and then that person and then the other person and now, they are almost an emotional wreck. So, there's a whole spectrum of adjectives that describes service for many: From sweet to sour to bitter.

However, while the year might have gone already and a fresh new start stares you in the face, I believe the Lord will need you to receive these words as a compass, as a guide, as an impartation that secures you in the midst of God's will for you.

So, the first thing I will speak on is this:

You have a Father!

A Father Who loves you, means well for you and is more particular about your life than you could ever be. This is such a simple truth but seriously, a lot of people never come to be persuaded about this. See what the Scriptures say about you:

Knowing God as Father

“The Lord your God wins victory after victory and is always with you. He celebrates and sings because of you, and he will refresh your life with his love.” (Zephaniah 3:17 CEV)
The Lord your God is with you. He is a hero who saves you. He happily rejoices over you, renews you with his love, and celebrates over you with shouts of joy. (GW)

God celebrates over you with shouts of joy!
He renews you with His love!
This is He Who is your Father.

Now, I need you to soak this in. Soak it in deeply. It has the power to transform your whole life! Without an identity that is established, a man can never find meaning in life. Unfortunately, many find their identities in many other things. Identities could be: a Papa, Presido, G Uncle, Tech Guru, Freshest etc... But none of these identities can hold the weight of the future God has planned for you. The only identity that can is that of you being a son/daughter of God. That's where all the meaning comes from. This foundation of your identity leads to another crucial thing. When God is known experientially as Father, here is what we find next:

“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:9-11 NIV) This Scripture changed my life forever.

I am certain that if we were to spend some time thinking about these verses, we also will come into the same persuasion I came to. Men, as weak as they are in their capacity to love selflessly, find that when it comes to their children, something switches on. A certain kind of sacrificial stance that is willing to go the whole nine yards to ensure their children's needs are met. Fathers borrow, fathers do menial jobs, fathers receive insults just to provide for their families. And then Jesus posed the question, "Which of you if his son asks for bread will give him a stone?" The men must have looked at Jesus and asked if He was alright. The thought in their minds will be: Who in his right senses will give his son a stone when it's simple bread the son is asking for?

See this: Isaiah 40:12 (MSG) ***Who has scooped up the ocean in his two hands, or measured the sky between his thumb and little finger, who has put all the earth's dirt in one of his baskets, weighed each mountain and hill?*** That “Who” is our Father!

In Jesus's mind, the thought was, how much we have belittled God with our fears and assumptions that He never comes through or when He does it is always too late. So, He asked them, which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? Now, I want to turn that question around to each of us. Ask yourself: If my son asks me for bread, can I ever give him a stone?
Now, see Jesus's response to them which we can as well receive as a response to us.

If you, then, though you are evil (or, in this situation, humans), know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!**

Can you say with me, "How much more!"

Now, see this:

For I know the thoughts that I think concerning you, said the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you the end that you wait for. (Jer; 29:11 JUB)

I say this because I know ·what [the plans] I am planning for you," says the Lord. "I have ·good plans for you [plans for your peace/security], not plans ·to hurt you [for yourharm]. I will give you hope and a good future. (EXB)

This is the rock-solid persuasion and conviction you must own and have. So, this is the bedrock: God is my Father and He cannot give me a stone for bread or snake for fish! His plans for me are not of evil but for good all the days of my life! And I will live and not die to declare His wonderful works in the land of the living. These must be your persuasions. You are not cornered. You are not trapped. You are not at a disadvantage. Every disadvantage goes extinct the moment your Father shows up! Selah (Pause and think of that!)

Before I go ahead, I want to say a prayer for anyone who missed it during NYSC or who is presently missing it. You're healed, forgiven, restored and established afresh in God's delight. You are renewed. You are made whole. Virtues are restored to you. Wherever you are, receive the tangible experience of the Father's love. Let it overwhelm you, now.

NOTE

You can get in touch with me after reading this if you perceive you need to talk with someone.

YOU NEED A COMPANY

Now, we move on to the next matter of great import. The world at the moment is increasingly being shaped to snuff out life from humanity. Many people look back and they wonder how 5 years went by like a flash. This happens to many people after service particularly when the rock-solid assurance of the Father's operation in their lives is missing. Having no specific word from the Lord for their lives, they soon flow with the tide. **Remember, it is only dead fish that swim with the tide. Living fish always swim against the tide.**

A believer has God's life in him/her. This means no believer is to be found tossed here and there, lifelessly rushed through life, and most especially because of what to eat and drink. None has to! None must! You must not! And no one around you must be allowed to! That brings me to the place of companies and covenant relationships. Beloved, this is a powerful key to reigning in life as opposed to being reigned over by life. As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens a friend. (Prov 27:17 CEB) I call this kind of company the Company of **Conquests and Accountability.**

You have to seek to find a company you can deliberately journey with. This kind of company is a company with a burning desire for tangible conquests in God and for God. There's something about holy ambitions to know God that pays off in due course of time. I tell you the truth, I lie not.

Companies of Conquest

Every ex-corps member needs to strategically pursue specific spiritual conquests immediately after service. Don't rush into that job if you can help it. And even if you have to remain in your job after service, request for time off. Be intentional about it. Make it a deliberate request that your boss knows they just have to agree to. I will share a list of conquests I see the Lord asking me to share with you about. These are five of many but they appear to be the most important 5. A young man or woman must seek conquests in:

1. The Word 2. Prayer 3. Fasting 4. Giving 5. Soul-winning

These conquests are tied to a singular desire: **Lord, that I may know You!** It is the knowledge of God that keeps a man throughout his life.

So, here is how you can go about it. First, seek the Lord in prayer to identify a company if you don't have one yet. Thereafter, share this desire with them about how you need to come into some spiritual adventures together.

Word Conquests

By the help of the Spirit, you and your company of deliberate and desperate seekers can map out a spiritually ambitious conquest to embark on. Say, we will complete the New Testament 3 times in August. When you are all agreed on this, then you make yourself accountable to one another. You may need to be physically in the same place. If that's not possible, you may decide you will do WhatsApp calls at intervals to be sure you are pressing into your agreed goal. For instance, I once bound myself to read the entire Bible within 40 days. I actually did it

in less than that. What followed afterwards was an explosion of light in my spirit man. Another time, about 5 or 6 of us bound ourselves to finish the New Testament in 7 days. And we did. At another time, I bound myself to memorize huge chunks of Ephesians and Colossians. It got to a point I plugged my earphones throughout the night with Colossians playing in a loop. These are just some examples of conquests in The Word. There is a reason for these conquests as I said earlier: It is to KNOW the Lord. To apprehend Him. To gain solid structures within Him.

Next, prayer conquests.

These conquests are meant to secure staying power in you. Lengthy times of prayer that will place serious demands on you. 3, 6, 9, 12 hours of prayer. You can decide you will go at it for a week, two weeks, three weeks. Daily. First, because the end in view is that, "That I may know You, Lord!", you will find that that will be the primary resultant effect of these intense times of prayer. But there will be other results: boldness, spiritual power, faith, healings and all kinds of miraculous operations will breakout around you. I remember one time I was praying daily for about 8 hours for a month. Around the 3rd week, some serious things began to happen with me. By the 25th or so, my spiritual eyes and ears just popped open and the next thing was I saw the next 10 years of my life played out before me. I was also fasting daily around that period.

Of fasting Conquests.

Some years ago, I was teaching some younger folks and then I asked them what was the lengthiest they had fasted. None had gone beyond a day of fasting. I told them I will introduce them to lengthier fasts. And we went on 3 days of no food and scant water. And we were praying all through and studying the Scriptures. After that incidence, suddenly they could all go that distance by themselves.

Fast! Call fasts whose corporate nature makes you capable of breaking through into things. What I mean is that with your Company of Conquests and Accountability, declare a fast among yourselves. For instance, say, can we go on a 7 day fast of fruits and vegetables only? Or a 3-day fast depending on what you are released to do. You can go to Camp Young or Foursquare Camp or GOFAMINT Camp or Faith Plaza or SU Guest House to be housed and isolated for that period. Your fasting could be about; Lord, we clear the path for the next 3 years. No obstacles. No hindrances to Your purpose in our lives. It could be about: Lord, we must not make mistakes in marriage and we pray now for our wives/husbands and children. I know someone who embarked on a 100 days journey of fasting because that's what the Lord told her. And the things she is breaking into will last her for a lifetime.

Giving Conquests

As touching giving, plan conquests too. It is very crucial. It is more blessed to give than to receive! For instance, another person I know embarked on a deliberate journey of giving for

100 days. How many people remember Dorcas the woman who kept giving widows clothes and then when she slept in the Lord, the widows wouldn't let her go? Her giving spoke and compelled Peter to come to raise her back to life! Giving has to become a way of life. Not for selfish purposes and not to make God a slot machine or an ATM but because it is blessed to give. This practice is also very key in breaking free from the mentality of the rat race of work to eat. A giver and that by the Spirit and from the place of joy and cheerfulness, has in essence declared he/she doesn't live by the economy of this world but that of heaven. Again, I say, It is more blessed to give than to receive!

Lastly, Soul Winning.

He that wins souls is wise! Oh, that a generation of wise ones will arise! The reason why many people can't preach Christ in their workplaces is that they have become rusty in one-on-one personal evangelism. Hit the streets together, beloved! Shod your feet with the Gospel of Peace and let your feet be beautiful upon the mountains as you speak of Christ in the company of your covenant friends. You can take a Uber to a specific area and hit the street preaching to men and women. You can speak in a bus, visit schools to preach etc. Because of the exercises in prayer and fasting and the Word, you will experience a stunning conversion of souls and miracles because the Lord will confirm His words as you speak them.

So, a practical step now. Can you list out potential members of this Company of Conquests and Accountability you need to be part of? Do that privately. In your jotting pad or on your

notepad application. Be deliberate. Take some minutes to do so. Ideally 3-5 persons but there are no hard and fast rules. Let the Holy Spirit lead you. We will dive into the last point now.

LEARN TO EARN: PROBLEM SOLVING

I can't talk deeply on the whole spectrum of skills to learn in order to earn after service within the short time I have. What I will do is to cut to the chase and share a profound key for being relevant work-wise. The most strategic skill to learn now is: **problem-solving.**

"Problem-solving is the act of defining a problem, determining the cause of the problem, identifying, prioritizing and selecting alternatives for a solution, and implementing a solution". (asq.org)

Presently, many people are learning so many skills: baking, digital marketing, fashion design, fish farming, android dev and the list goes on and on. These are not bad in themselves but most times, people do not realize how much of a means these all are.
They are not ends in themselves. They are all tools that are meant to help you solve real people's problems. But since we are approaching life after NYSC from a spiritual point of view, I need to show you a way to engage problem-solving. Sometimes, we miss out on the reach and power of speaking in other tongues. I can vividly remember sometime back how I began to pray to understand the real issues with education. I needed something beyond mere theory and piles of research. I wanted to cut through the whole issue and get at the heart. As I prayed that day in other tongues, I discovered that suddenly my tongues switched to a word which I kept repeating again and again. The word was Paideia and it wasn't that I had ever

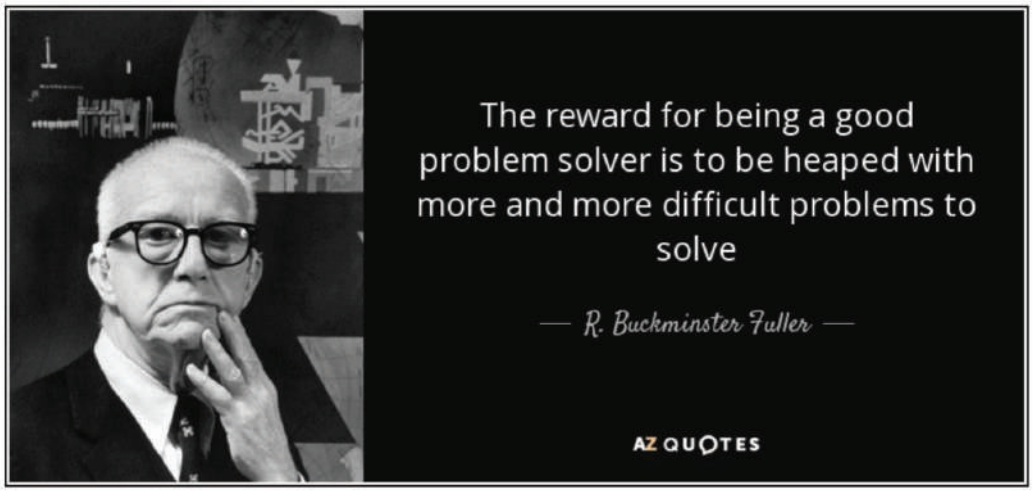
consciously heard the word. I perceived it was from a human language and so I googled it. Funny enough, my spelling wasn't even right that day but Google corrected it for me. This is what a short snippet from Wikipedia says about the word:

In the culture of ancient Greece and later of the Greco-Roman world at large, the term paideia (also spelt paedeia) (/paɪˈdeɪə/; Greek: παιδεία, *paideía) referred to the rearing and education of the ideal member of the polis or state.*

However, I kept going further and then I discovered that the word Paideia was used in Scriptures. In Ephesians 6:4, Paul writes, “And, you fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and **admonition** of the Lord.” Suddenly, rivers of light just began to flow. Suddenly, I could see clearly what was wrong with education as it is presently found in the world and I have been downloading patterns for true education as God will have it. Now, if you cannot and do not understand a problem, you can never solve it. And who better to reveal what is the problem than the Holy Spirit Himself. I am not saying do not read up on what has been written about issues but when you read, keep your heart open to the Holy Spirit to point out what the real problem is.

Einstein was he who said this: “If I had an hour to solve a problem, I'd spend 55 minutes thinking about the problem and 5 minutes thinking about solutions”

This is the real skill to learn, beloved brethren. There are quite a number of resources online by which you can begin to gain mastery of this skill. Find them. Use them. Practice, practice, practice. Let it become second nature.



Do you know what this really means? In simple terms, it means anyone who can solve problems can never be out of relevant work to do. Solve someone's problem, another person will come looking for you!

With this, I end this instalment of “Finding Pasture.” I believe we have been blessed.

Need some help?

For counselling, you can reach me through my email:

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To find out about resources that can be helpful in mastering problem solving, you can reach out to this number via WhatsApp: +234 816 561 9337